

*Stories in pictures*

# THE ODD GOOSE

VIDYA AND RAJARAM SHARMA



*A story photographed in 2020 at Hadinaru lake of Mysore district.*

*Photographs in this book may not show the actual size of birds.*



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What's got into Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose?

What?

Who is Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose, you ask?





Well, he is not a pygmy.



And certainly not cottony,





But a duck, like all geese.



The smallest of ducks.  
Perhaps a part of his name  
is because of that.





He has a round cotton white head ...



A black cap, a black band and blackish wings  
touched with the glossiest green,







Though his lady has none of these, but shares his  
shape and habits of course, a gander he certainly is.



This is Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose.



I know ... I know ... You want to know what's  
got into Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose!



Now, look at his tribe, with their goose-like bill,  
skimming for juicy reed or floating plants,



Grouping up to dazzle as they fly; rapidly and in perfect formation,





Or quaking and paddling along, peacefully ...





Oh! Do be patient, I am getting there; waiting to tell you  
what's got into Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose!



When his tribe is all peaceful and quiet, here he is,  
chasing his Lady,







Again and again,

Quaking at her loudly,







Again and again,



Making her patter,

Making her take to her heels,







After all that ...



Driving her in circles,





Round and round,

Again and again.







In full view of all others,



Bar Headed Geese, Garganeys, Wigeons,  
Whistling Ducks, Coots and many more.



What could have possibly gotten into him?







How I wish I knew!

Do you, by any chance know, what's got into  
Mr. Cotton Pygmy Goose?





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